

**Ohio Department of Job and Family Services  
Office of Families and Children**

**Policy and Practice Guidance Document #015  
Foster Youth Bill of Rights and Resource Family Bill of Rights  
November 10, 2021**

**Background**

The Office of Families and Children (OFC) is excited to announce two new rules that will be effective on November 15, 2021: Ohio Administrative Code [5101:2-5-35](#) “Foster Youth Bill of Rights” and Ohio Administrative Code [5101:2-42-20](#) “Resource Family Bill of Rights.”

In November 2020, the Children Services Transformation Advisory Council issued its Final Recommendations Report that included the following recommendations:

- **Establish a Foster Youth Bill of Rights** - Codify a clear set of rights that youth in foster care may expect of the children services system.
- **Establish a Resource Family Bill of Rights** - Codify a clear set of rights that kinship and foster caregivers may expect of the children services system.

On June 30, 2021, Governor DeWine signed Amended House Bill 110 of the 134th General Assembly (HB 110), which codified the creation of the Foster Youth Bill of Rights (Ohio Revised Code 2151.316) and the Resource Family Bill of Rights (Ohio Revised Code 5103.163), effective September 30, 2021, and required the adoption of rules to establish and enforce these rights. OFC has engaged multiple stakeholders, including caregivers and former foster youth, in the development of these new rules.

**Procedure**

**Foster Youth Bill of Rights** – The JFS 01677 “Foster Youth Rights Handbook” is in the process of being updated with the most current rule language, but it will not be completed by the effective date of the rules. As a result, each agency should fully review and provide each youth, as age and developmentally appropriate, a copy of the Foster Youth Bill of Rights rule until the handbook is updated. ODJFS is creating a poster of these rights for agencies to display that will be available on Forms Central. It is also recommended that agencies provide and explain these rights to resource caregivers, so they understand the rights of youth in their care.

**Resource Family Bill of Rights** – Any agency involved with a resource caregiver should provide the resource caregiver with a copy of the Resource Family Bill of Rights rule. A

resource caregiver is a foster caregiver or a kinship caregiver. ODJFS is in the process of creating a brochure for agencies to provide to families, but until this brochure is completed, the agency should be explaining these rights to the resource caregivers when the copy of the rule is provided.

**Training**

ODJFS will be providing additional training and technical assistance regarding both bills of rights and the role of agencies to inform foster youth and resource caregivers of their rights, to ensure that their rights are not being violated, along with what actions to take if a youth or caregiver feels their rights have been violated.

**Contact**

For questions regarding the Foster Youth Bill of Rights or the Resource Family Bill of Rights, please contact [David.Beck@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:David.Beck@jfs.ohio.gov).